

In Loving Memory Of

*Sunrise
May 21, 1919*

*Sunset
August 4, 2010*

Sister Hazel Lena Corley Brown

Service

Saturday, August 14, 2010 - 10:30 a.m.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

12-16 West 108th Street • New York, New York

*Rev. Keith W. Roberson, I - Pastor
Minister Melody Moore, Organist*

Obituary

Who Can Find A Virtuous Woman? For her price is far above rubies. (Proverbs 31:10)

Mother Hazel Lena Corley Brown was born on May 21, 1919 to Bennie and Mary Corley in Screven Co., Georgia, eight miles from the town of Sylvania. Mother was the sixth of thirteen children, seven boys and six girls. She prayed from the mourner's bench and received Christ at the age of eleven years. Since then, Mother remained in the Church working for the Lord until her quiet ascension on August 4, 2010.

Our beloved Mother, Hazel Brown, affectionately called "MA", was an exemplary example of a God-loving, dedicated Christian. She gently admonished her children to always put God first and lived by every word she spoke. "MA" was abundantly blessed with the attributes of patience, kindness and long suffering. Perhaps "MA's" most recognized attribute was that of "peacemaker" because she had a peaceful resolution to problems for all who sought her counsel. "MA" was the matriarch of the family and was the major link that kept it connected.

"MA" attended Coyle/Beach High School. She excelled in all of her subjects and was known as a "math wiz." She later taught school in Savannah. "MA" skillfully helped her great grandchildren solve challenging math problems. Through the years, if there was an event at school in which her children, grandchildren or great grandchildren participated, "MA" always attended the event, right up until her illness in January 2010.

"MA" worked as a Clerk for the NYC Transit Authority for twenty years, while raising five children. Incredibly, she also found time to exercise her entrepreneurial skills as a successful independent salesperson for Copper Craft Guild and Fuller Products.

"MA" was active in her community for over sixty years. At her 90th birthday celebration in 2009, "MA" was presented with a letter of recognition from Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Proclamations from Borough President Scott Stringer and Council person Gale Brewer for her many years of dedicated service. She also served on the Executive Board of the TWU Retirees Association.

Blessed with exceptional culinary skills, sweet aromas were always emanating from "MA's" kitchen. A delicious meal at "MA's" was guaranteed, complimented by a piece of homemade cake, cobbler or pie. "MA" would take crumbs from cakes she collected from birthday celebrations and effortlessly turn them into a wonderful dessert.

"MA" was a faithful member of Southern Baptist Church for over fifty-five years. Her commitment to her church life was unwavering. She was a founding member of the Sunday School PTA and later became President. "MA" was the President of the Floral Ministry for twenty-five years and Vice President of the United Floral Ministry for ten years until her illness in January, 2010.

"MA" loved to travel. The highlight of her life was when she traveled to Jerusalem and was baptized in the River Jordan where our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was baptized. "MA's" travels also included nine cruises, travel to Hawaii, the Caribbean and many states.

Even as "MA" advanced in years, she remained open to new ideas and maintained a youthful demeanor. In spite of the many challenges she encountered during her ninety-one years of life, "MA" was always optimistic that the outcome of any situation would be favorable.

As a dear friend of Mother, recently said, "when God made Hazel Brown, he threw away the mold!" Amen.

Mother Hazel Brown leaves to cherish her memories: four children, Larry (Elizabeth), Jacqueline (Freddie), Isaiah and Deborah; her eldest child, Anna Marie, preceded her in death; two sisters, Alma Odum of Savannah, GA and Berdell Denton of Uniondale, NY; one brother, Bennie Corley (Ethel) of Philadelphia; fifteen grandchildren, Trevor, Brian, Caliph, Jasmine, James, Jr., Ashauntee, Aaron, Freida, Serena, Amin, Amina, Iaisha, Mary, Hasan and Tyrone; twenty-nine great grandchildren, Syries, Christian, Cassidy-Rae, Brianna, Eryn, Caliph, Jr., Dahrell, Trinity, Jaleeia, Nasir, Tahir, Reyna, Joshua, Ali, Jihad, Alisha, Angela, Alexa, Chanell, Timothy, Trevor, Jr., Troy, Willie, Riley, Chance, Rain, Messiah, Leah and Marli; and a host of beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, dedicated friends, church family and neighbors.

~ Lovingly Submitted, The Family

Order of Service

Organ Prelude Minister Melody Moore, Minister of Music, Southern Baptist Church

Processional Pastor Keith W. Roberson, I and Family

Prayer of Comfort Deacon Johnny Matthews, Floral Ministry Deacon

Hymn of Comfort “Hold On To God’s Unchanging Hands”
Southern Baptist Church Choir

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Proverbs 31: 10-22 Sister Sherlene Blake, Floral Ministry

New Testament: John 14: 1-4,6,7 Rev. Paul Corley, nephew

Remarks Sister Lucille Mitchell, adopted sister
Brother Freddie Richardson, son-in-law
Sister Iris Johnson, niece

Poem “Have You Ever Met Mrs. Hazel Lena Corley Brown?”
Read by adopted granddaughter, Salimah Powell

Reflections Deacon Eddie Thomas, Deacon to Sister Hazel Brown
Reverend Anthony Chisom, Pastor, Abundantly Blessed Baptist Assembly
Elder Kay Francis Odum, niece, New Covenant CME Church, Savannah, GA

Solo “If I Can Help Somebody”
Dr. Sherrie Pratt, Southern Baptist Church/Calvary Baptist Church

Acknowledgement of Cards, Condolences

and Resolutions Sister Lena Lacewell, Administrative Assistant, Southern Baptist Church

Obituary Sister Louise Hucklebee, niece

Eulogy Pastor Keith W. Roberson, I

Solo “How Great Thou Art”
Brother Rick Anthony Richards, spiritual son

Benediction Pastor Keith W. Roberson, I

Recessional

<p style="text-align: center;">Interment Ferncliff Cemetery Hartsdale, New York</p>
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*In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful
To My Wonderful Mother
Hazel Lena Corley Brown
Mother: God's Stand-In On Earth*

Because Of You, I Am

*Because you innately understood the awesome power of God's love, and never withheld it
-I LOVE;*

*Because you, through all adversity, relied on God to guide you
-I RELY ON GOD;*

*Because you sacrificed your life's energy, your time, your sleep, your earnings to secure your family
-I too SACRIFICE;*

*Because you maintained exemplary character and high moral values
-I EMULATE YOU;*

*Because you didn't steal or borrow, but instead took the high road of hard work
-I WALK BEHIND YOU;*

*Because you are a pillar of strength, unshakeable and unwavering in faith, always willing to forgive
-I WALK WITH YOU;*

*Because you learned how to rise above life's down lows, and you rose the high tide of patience
-I CAN FLY;*

*Because you are a manifestation of God's Holy Spirit in human form
-I AM FREE TO BE MYSELF;*

Mother

So proud of you am I

So humbled am I that you are my mother

*As you admire and compliment me, be it known that you are speaking of yourself. Remember always,
BECAUSE OF YOU - I AM*

*As you pass the "baton" of God, righteousness, love and peace on to me, I accept it and vow to uphold every principal
that you stand for. As I live, I shall, with God's help, pass that "baton" on to my daughters.*

May God bless and enrich you in this life, and enter you into Paradise in the next life.

I salute you and I thank you.

You are the wind beneath my wings.

I love you forever,

Your Daughter, Deborah

(1995)

Acknowledgement

*The family of the late **Mother Hazel Brown** deeply appreciates all who remembered us with prayers, cards, calls and other expressions of condolences. It lifted our hearts to know that you care. May God continue to bless you and may you, in turn, remember us in prayer.*

Professional Services Provided By:
Unity Funeral Chapels, Inc.
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